GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2954
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2016
Effects of Polluted Water from Atomic Plant
Chautala Shri Dushyant

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a)whether the Government is aware that due to diversion of 320 cusecs of water by Gorakhpur Nuclear Power Plant, Haryana has been deprived of irrigation to 142,000 acres of land in the State and if so, the details thereof;

(b)whether the polluted water from the Gorakhpur power plant affects downstream agriculture and slowly-poison the water used for drinking by humans and animals in the State;

(c)if so, whether the Government has conducted any study on the impact of the functioning of this plant in the State; and

(d)if so, the details thereof and the remedial action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (Dr. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a)The water for the Gorakhpur Haryana Anu Vidyut Pariyojana (GHAVP) was allotted by the Haryana government considering the irrigation needs of the lands downstream. A provision of 320 cusecs of water has been made for the four units to be set up at the site. The consumptive use of water when all the four units are under operation is expected to be of the order of 125 cusecs and the remaining water will be discharged back into the canal.

(b)The Indian Nuclear Power programme follows stringent guidelines on safety at all stages such as siting, design, construction, operation and decommissioning of nuclear power plant and stricter regulatory control and compliance.

Right from its inception it has been the policy of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) to carry out appropriate environmental surveillance programs in and around all nuclear facilities in the country. The studies carried out at various sites of power station have clearly indicated that there is no unacceptable buildup of radioactive pollutants in the environment. The discharges from nuclear power stations in the country are well within the limits stipulated by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board and do not cause any effect on the water to render it unsafe for drinking and irrigation.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. A comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the project (including public hearing) was carried out as a part of process of environmental clearance for the project. Based on EIA study, environmental clearance was accorded by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

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